

THE RICHMOND DISPATCH.

BY THE DISPATCH COMPANY.

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TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1894.

The President's Message.

The annual message of President Cleveland to Congress is a long and highly interesting one. He touches upon every subject that could be expected to receive notice at his hands, reserving for the conclusion of his message what he had to say on the subject of the tariff and the banking system.

The President fully approves of Mr. Carlisle's scheme for modifying the present banking system. He would like to have an "elastic currency." The bonds upon which the circulating notes of the national banks are based will fall due in a few years, and it is not too soon to begin to devise a substitute for the present national bank system. Mr. Carlisle would repeal all laws providing for the deposit of United States bonds as security for circulation. Also, would permit national banks to issue circulating notes not exceeding 75 per cent of their paid-up and outstanding capital, provided they deposit with the government as a guarantee in United States legal-tender notes, including Treasury notes of 1890, a sum equal to 20 per cent of the notes they desire to issue, etc., etc.

Mr. Carlisle and the President also recommend the exemption of State bank notes from taxation by the United States, where it is shown that they have not exceeded 75 per cent of their paid-up and outstanding capital; that their stockholders are individually liable for the redemption of their circulating notes to the full extent of their ownership of stock; that the liability of said banks upon their circulating notes constitutes under their State law a first lien upon their assets; that such banks have kept and maintained a guarantee fund in United States legal-tender notes, equal to 20 per cent of their circulating notes when presented at their principal or branch offices.

This new scheme of Mr. Carlisle's will find favor in the eyes of many persons. Indeed, the number of those persons who wish to see State bank notes in circulation is large. The House of Representatives at its last session voted down a proposition to repeal the tax on State bank notes. All who believe that the banking system to be useful must be a credit-system will enlist in the cause of exempting State bank notes from taxation.

The President's policy as to future bond-issues is not to be misunderstood. On this point he is bold and emphatic. Unless Congress takes measures to avoid the necessity of issuing more bonds, bonds will be issued whenever in his opinion the reserve is in danger.

The President's policy for the people is to think of the new tariff bill as a measure of importance, and comes out boldly for putting gold and iron-ore on the free list. We do not think that the people desire a renewed agitation of the tariff question just now. Business and the business-men are opposed to it. However, he speaks also of the "advent of a new tariff policy," as if he intended to repeal the Gorman law as a pretty permanent "fixure."

The President would be glad to see every particle of differential duty in favor of refined sugar stricken out of the tariff law. But he will hardly have his way in regard to that matter. He expresses his earnest belief that the tariff law, as it stands, is the best that can be devised, and that it is the duty of Congress to maintain it.

The President makes some strong remarks on the abstract or general question of a tariff. He speaks about a tariff built upon the theory that it is made to "protect imports." "Our new tariff policy," quoth the President, "is built upon the theory that it is well to encourage such importations as our people need." We like that phrase—"Our new tariff policy."

We are glad to see that the President says nothing against the acquisition of Hawaii, but confines himself to saying that the United States of America should have been extended to the Pacific Ocean, and that he has recognized the new government.

Nicaragua, having received from the suggested forfeiture of certain American rights in that country, the President is satisfied on that question.

As to Turkey and our troubles there, the President says that the United States recognizes the right of expulsion, but not the full claim set up by Turkey.

He gives a great deal of attention to the reports of the secretaries. As to the Postmaster-General's report, he says a good many things which do not strike us as being always wise. He is for saving a good deal of the money now expended in various ways by the Post-Office Department. He says that he is not in favor of "pretended" papers but not to have secured to them the same privileges as real papers. Rural delivery, he says, is too costly under present circumstances.

The President still advocates civil-service reform; but we think that upon this, as upon several other matters, he will see that Congress does not concur in his views.

The intelligent people of the country will cordially endorse what the President says in favor of the weather service. But we are not sure that they will like his denunciation of the free distribution of seeds as a "vicious system."

It appears that the operations of the Great American Life Insurance Company have been extended throughout Europe, and that the President has taken exception to the Russian Government "usage of treatment for them."

The rules for the prevention of collisions at sea which were framed by the Maritime Conference held in Washington in 1893 have been incorporated into statute of the United States and Great Britain and will go into effect March 1, 1895.

Sweden, France, Portugal, Spain, and Sweden are expected to take action. The President does not approve of the Russian Government which the United States and other powers helped to establish. Our participation in its establishment "against the wishes of the natives" was in plain defiance of the conservative teachings and warnings of the wise and patriotic men who laid the foundations of our free institutions, and he would have the United States withdrawn from its engagements with other powers if possible to do so honorably.

The deficit in our revenues for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894, was \$60,830,300. There was, however, a decrease in the ordinary expenses of the government compared with the previous year of \$1,924,674.66. The bounty paid upon the production of sugar was \$110,208.90, but an increase of \$2,725,078.01 in the payments made during the preceding year. The government's expenses in connection with the payment of the bounty were \$134,161.84.

The total stock of money of all kinds in the country on November 1, 1894, was \$2,240,743,888, as against \$2,240,680,000 on the same date in 1893. The circulation, not including Treasury holdings, was \$1,672,692,427 or \$24.37 per capita upon an estimated population of 68,857,000. On the last of July the stock of metallic money, of which \$1,027,923,201 was gold, and \$644,769,226 was silver.

National banks were organized during the year, and seventy-nine went into voluntary liquidation. Twenty-one went into the hands of receivers. There are now forty national banks less than there were in 1893. The circulation was decreased \$1,741,623.

The strength of our army is 2,135 officers and 25,708 enlisted men. The military establishment is maintained at a level which is urged not "to gratify the ambitions or interests of localities by the creation of new and unnecessary posts."

In view of the policy of sea-coast defense now being carried out, the President recommends "that the strength of the army be now made at least equal to the legal strength." To this end he recommends that the Secretary of War should make a plan, in accordance with the recommendation for the three-battalion formation of regiments.

The army is commended for its valuable services during the year in protecting the property of the United States, aiding the Federal Courts, and removing lawless obstructions to the performance of legitimate governmental functions. The total militia enrollment is 417,533.

The Indians have been quiet during the year. Little trouble from them is feared henceforth.

John M. Schiefel to the rank of lieutenant-general.

An additional credit judge for each United States circuit is suggested. The abolition of the fee system of payment of officers is again urged.

An appropriation for the erection of two prisons for the confinement of United States prisoners is again recommended.

The President transmits and endorses the plea of the Secretary of the Navy for three additional battleships, and ten or twelve torpedo-boats. We have eight vessels in Chinese waters. Both the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Treasury recommend the transfer of the work of the coast survey proper to the Navy Department. There is a recommendation from the Secretary of the Navy to overcome the present stagnation of promotions in the navy.

The President believes in the civil-service system now in force at the navy-yard. Our public domain amounts to about six hundred million acres, exclusive of 250,000,000 in Alaska. The President urges that the Commissioner of the General Land-Office be relieved from the duty of deciding litigated land-cases, and that a non-partisan court should be created to pass upon such cases.

There are 96,944 persons on our pension-roll, of whom 73,368 are surviving soldiers and sailors. The total amount expended for pensions during the year was \$18,949,407. Among the pensioners are nine widows and three daughters of soldiers of the Revolution, and forty-five survivors of the war of 1812. Continued vigilance against pension frauds is recommended by the President.

The Secretary of Agriculture has actually turned back into the Treasury \$900,000 of unexpended money appropriated to his department—a sum equal to 23 per cent of the entire appropriation. The President recommends that a bureau be established in this department for the analysis of samples of soils from all sections of the Union.

An annual crop census is discussed. It would cost about five hundred thousand dollars yearly.

The President is entirely convinced that we ought not to be longer without a national board of health or national health officer, charged with the duty of seeing that the health of the nation is protected, and that the health of our own country from the invasion of pestilence and disease.

The President nowhere in his message grows very eloquent; nor does he indulge in phrase-coining, as he formerly did. He is plain, business-like, and matter-of-fact throughout. His concluding paragraph is expressive of his wish to "co-operate in perfecting any legislation that tends to the prosperity and welfare of our country."

Mr. B. Johnson Barbour, whose death we announce this morning, was one of the shining lights in the old Whig party of Virginia, and was the orator of the day at the unveiling of the statue of Henry Clay in the Capitol Square. He was a man of rare gifts as an orator, and shone brilliantly as a conversationalist. He had the classics at his tongue's end, and was always a diligent student.

He came of a family distinguished in Virginia history, his father having been of this State, United States senator, and Minister to England.

The deceased was but little public life, as in the old times he was a Whig living in a Democratic district. His attachment to the Union was strong, and he never approved of the secession of Virginia; but hundreds of our officers and soldiers who were on duty in the neighborhood of his home, in Orange County, greatly remember him to be to all of them who wanted food or shelter.

Just after the close of the war our people, we think, were not quite sure-elected Mr. Barbour to Congress, but the Radicals would not admit him to a seat. Some years later he was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates. He was a devoted friend of the University of Virginia, and was for many years prominent in the State Agricultural Society.

His orations and public addresses, of which there were many, were marked by accurate scholarship, great enthusiasm for the cause which he espoused, and eloquence of a very high order. Withal he was a Christian, and was prominent in the Christian work. There was to him no more to him than to be a man to mourn him.

"Pop-gun" usually do more execution against the persons who undertake to handle them than against those at whom they are aimed. We hope Congress will leave them alone, for we need them. Let us have no more of them at present. The country knows when it has had enough of a thing. And enough is as good as a feast.

Mr. Carlisle's State-bank system has a Federal string to it, which is warranted to keep wild-cat in check.

For a short session of Congress the President's message is a long one.

The Republic. Just as Congress has assembled and the President has sent to that body his annual message may be an opportune occasion for reminding our readers that it is possible our republic has not yet reached all the storms which may threaten its perpetuity. In the Forum for October, under the title of "The Republic," we undertook to answer the interrogatory, "Can this republic stand the test of time?" He singles out all the features of greatness associated with the history of the republic and seeks to show that they entirely failed to give perpetuity to that form of government. His argument on this point is epitomized by the New York Journal of Commerce as follows:

"The intellectual greatness of Greece made her the parent of ideas for art, literature, philosophy, and poetry for all the succeeding generations; yet the example of Athens demonstrates that these things cannot of themselves safeguard a republic. Rome has been pre-eminent among the nations for military power, for her organization of military force, for her achievements in conquest, for the organization of her colonies, and for the construction of great public works; yet these grand ramifications of national puissance failed to prevent the fall of the Roman Empire. Rome taught conclusively that magnitude and splendor of public works have no tendency to guarantee the permanence of a State. Venice, with its splendid architecture and painting, its vast commerce, and its great military power, teaches how little these things contribute to the permanence of a government."

"Equally, the binding force arising from the enthusiasm of great racial or national religions has failed to perpetuate the governments fostered by them, whether republican or monarchical. Hence, Mr. Eliot concludes—great public powers, splendid arts, noble literature, widespread commerce, and exalted religious sentiment have all failed to secure the continuance of States."

Our New York contemporary says that President Eliot shows "profound political wisdom" when he undertakes to answer the question, "Where are we to look for more trustworthy safeguards of permanent peace?" and tells us to direct our aim to "the achievement of general, diffused physical well-being," or "the promotion of achieved happiness" and the careful avoidance of all causes of social discontent. But we confess that to us the answer seems to be entirely unsatisfactory. When we shall have achieved the objects named and shall have avoided all the causes of social discontent, we shall have accomplished all that we shall be likely to undertake; but how are we to achieve "diffused happiness" and "general physical well-being"? This is the problem we have set out to solve. But here are President Eliot's own words, and his summary of his suggestions:

"These, then, are some of the new principles and forces which make for the permanence of the republic: Tolerant religion; general education; better domestic relations; attention to the means of public health and pleasure; publicity; corruption; increased mutual confidence; a growing sense of brotherhood and unity; the growing hopefulness and cheerfulness of man's outlook on man, on earth, on universe, and on God; and, finally, the changing objects and methods of religion and its institutions."

But still the difficulty is to secure these objects. "Be good" is good advice, but it is "nothing but good."

The West Virginia Debt. It will surprise some people to read in the Wheeling Intelligencer of the year following the Republican paper in West Virginia, the following remarks as to how much of Virginia's debt was due to that State. The Intelligencer says:

"For the credit of this State, it will not do to say that West Virginia owes nothing, and let it go at that. A West Virginia commission, in 1870, reported that this State owed a little less than \$1,000,000. If the matter now comes before the State in any proper form, it should be taken up. West Virginia cannot afford to place herself in the position of dodging the question. She has insisted from the first that if she owed anything, she was ready to pay it, and that she was ready at any time to go into the question."

"The Governor and the Legislature may find it expedient to accept of any other business proposition, on its merits and with regard to the interests of the State. Nothing that casts dishonor on the State can be to its advantage."

We think we know the people of West Virginia well enough to justify us in saying that they will never pay one million, nor one tenth of a million of dollars of the debt turned over to her by this State. But, all the same, there will be Wall-streeters in abundance who will make money out of this Intelligencer's article. But that paper itself will not profit pecuniarily because it will not article.

Every pastor nowadays becomes a bulletin-board every Sunday morning just before taking his text, and for several minutes, sometimes a half hour, he reads off notices, many of them of a threatening character. Some of the announcements are often first-class advertisements in black-faced type, with columns, long and short, of preceding sermon, and sound somewhat ridiculous. A good reward is awaiting the man who will invent a good substitute for this very ancient custom.—The Danville Register.

There are people who make it a rule never to get to church early because they do not wish to be bored by listening to these "notices." It is a tiresome thing to have to hear chapter after chapter of these notices, many of which have already appeared in the daily papers until one becomes fatigued at looking at them. Very often the patience of the people, as well as that of the pastor, is exhausted by this dismal overture. Many a good sermon has been ruined by the practice.

The President's message in the full was distributed throughout the Union yesterday under the wings of the Western Union Company, and was by them furnished to their newspaper patrons free of charge.

Here in Richmond four operators were engaged simultaneously in receiving it. Twelve copies were made on manifold paper, so that copies might not only be handed the Richmond dailies, but be mailed to newspapers in several Virginia and Northern cities—cities whose telegraphic facilities were unequal to this heavy piece of work.

All this was done, exceedingly well, before we must say, in the early morning, before the wires of the company were needed for the transmission of the regular business of the company.

The Doctrine Renounced by Sadie—No more Public Meetings Held—A Man in a Bad Company.

ONANCOCK, VA., December 3.—(Special.)—The "Sanctified Band" of Chincoteague Island, seems to be falling to pieces. It will be remembered that Joe Lynch, Sadie Collins, and William Chandler, ringleaders of the band, were convicted in Accomac County Court about one month ago of being concerned in a conspiracy to defy the laws of Virginia, and sentenced to pay fines and confined to the county jail. They were subsequently released on a bond of \$1,000 each, and returned to their homes.

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SANCTIFIED BAND.

LYNCH, THE LEADER, AND DEACONESS SADIE COLLINS HAVE GONE.

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